The Pikes Peak
Gay and Lesbian Community Center
P.P.G.L.C.C.
P.O. Box 574 Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901 (719) 471-4429

July 16, 1992

John is a senior at Palmer High School and has told his parents that he thinks he might be gay. John's parents are shocked and tell him that they don't know what to think or where to get help for him. John feels even more isolated and is considering suicide.

Sherri and Jan have just moved to Colorado Springs from Los Angeles and wonder if there are any gay-friendly businesses in town. Jan comments "Surely the lesbian and gay community isn't as invisible as it appears?"

Debra goes to Victory Chapel and believes that her pastor is overly zealous against homosexuals. She works with a gay man who seems nice enough but her pastor insists that she should vote yes on amendment 2. Janet wants to know the other side of the story...who are these people that claim to be gay?

Dear Friends,

As an educational non-profit organization, the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center is seeking new techniques to break down old barriers and to improve communication within our area. We feel that we have found the perfect information system that will allow us to provide instant answers to questions such as those described above. In March, Time magazine printed an article about an automated digitized information system or ("Audiotext Hotline") developed by Johnathan Rotenberg for the Harvard Business School Gay and Lesbian Students Association. We have enclosed a copy of this article, which you will find both humorous and informative.

The Audiotext Hotline uses a multi-layer menu to allow a phone caller to access information on just about any topic. Further, a caller interested in contacting a particular organization may leave a message in the organization's private voice mailbox. The system even has the capability to call or page the organization to let it know that there is a message in its mailbox. The caller also has the option of being patched through to a live person, such as a Helpline volunteer. We have enclosed a list of the numerous options the caller is able to access. Much of this material has already been gathered by Mr. Rotenberg, and only minor revisions are necessary to suit our specific application.

The Communications Committee of the PPGLCC has been in contact with Mr. Rotenberg since April to study the feasibility of duplicating his Audiotext Hotline here in the Pikes Peak region. Mr. Rotenberg has been very helpful in advising us on how to set up such a system. The educational value of this system - especially with proper publicity - is far reaching. We see the Audiotext Hotline as a high-tech tool for developing better understanding within and between the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual communities. Needless to say, our PPGLCC board is excited about having this communication tool available in our community.

We are soliciting your support to set up an Audiotext Hotline for the Pikes Peak region. An upgraded system (software and card) to handle 1 to 4 callers at the same time will cost $3,000. The system requires a fairly updated 386 AT computer. We are also seeking support for advertising the system to both the gay/lesbian and heterosexual communities. We are certainly willing to work with businesses or corporations who are unable to make a cash donation but might be able to donate some or all of the hardware required. We already have commitments from several individuals and organizations. We have enclosed a response card for your convenience.

Thank you for your time, interest, and pledge for the Audiotext Hotline. We know that you will become committed to this project as you read the enclosed materials. Check coming issues of Gayspeak and New Phazes for start-up dates for our very own Audiotext Hotline.

Sincerely yours,

Martin & Pamela

Martin Meier 687-6335
Pamela Jones 578-0412
Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center

DIRECTORY OF THE PPGLCC AUDIOTEXT HOTLINE

100 Directory of everything you ever wanted to know about gay people and homosexuality
(lists topics 101-110, 120, 140, 160 & 900)

101 What causes people to be gay?
102 Can a gay person be changed into a heterosexual?
103 What percentage of the U.S. population is gay?
105 What is homophobia? How common is it?
106 How should I talk with someone who is gay?
108 Learning that a close friend or family member is gay.
109 What is it like to be gay in Colorado Springs or Pueblo?
110 How can I be supportive of my gay friend?

120 Directory of religious denominations and their policies on gay concerns
(lists topics 121-131)

121 Roman Catholic Church
122 Protestant Episcopal Church
123 Presbyterian Church
124 United Methodist Church
125 United Church of Christ
126 Unitarian Universalist Association
127 Southern Baptist Church
128 Greek Orthodox Church
129 Lutheran Church in America
130 Quakers
131 Judaism

140 Directory of common myths about homosexuality and homosexuals
(lists topics 141-152)

141 Myth #1: Neurotic family patterns cause homosexuality
142 Myth #2: Acting like a "sissy" or "tomboy" causes people to be gay
143 Myth #3: Homosexual seduction causes children to be gay
144 Myth #4: A traumatic event with a person of the opposite sex can cause homosexuality
145 Myth #5: Gay and lesbian people are mentally sick
146 Myth #6: People are either heterosexual or homosexual
147 Myth #7: Gays and lesbians are few and far between
148 Myth #8: Gays and lesbians chose it, and therefore they can change it
149 Myth #9: Gays and lesbians are easy to identify
150 Myth #10: Gay and lesbian persons are poor parents
151 Myth #11: Gay and lesbian people are oversexed and indiscriminately promiscuous
152 Myth #12: Gays and lesbians lead a lonely life and contribute nothing to society

160 Historical figures believed to be gay

180 Civil rights for gays and lesbians
(lists topics 181-183)

181 States that have Civil rights for gays and lesbians
182 Colorado Towns that have local ordinances protecting gays and lesbians
183 Current anti-gay amendment to change Colorado State Constitution
184 Just Vote No! campaign
185 Equal Protection Campaign of Colorado Springs

200 Guide to sexual orientation issues
(lists topics 201-203, & 900)

201 Introduction to sexual orientation
202 Assessing where you are
203 Where you can go for counseling about orientation

300 Main directory of topics and services for gay, lesbian & bisexual people
(lists topics 310, 339, 340, 360, 370, 380, 400, 500, 600, & 900)

310 Directory of organizations and resources in Colorado Springs and Pueblo
(list topics 311-329)

311 B-GALA: Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Alliance
312 Colorado Gay Rodeo Association
313 Count Me In
314 Gayspeak
315 GTO: Good Times Organization
316 Helpline
317 Lesbians Choosing Children
318 MABLE: Married But Lesbian
319 Metropolitan Community Church - Colorado Springs
320 Metropolitan Community Church - Pueblo
321 MOM: Men-Oriented Men (Gay/Bisexual Men's Rap Group)
322 New Phazes
323 One to Another
324 Open Forum
325 P-FLAG: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
326 PPGLCC: Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center
327 Queer Nation
328 Southern Colorado AIDS Project
329 The Group
330 The United Court of the Rising Sun Empire

339 Discrimination and Violence Reporting

340 Directory of support and counseling services in Colorado Springs and Pueblo
(list topics 341-351)

341 AIDS Support Group-Colorado Springs (S-CAP)
342 AIDS Support Group-Pueblo (Pueblo AIDS Coalition)
343 Colorado College (B-GALA)
344 Gay Alcoholics Anonymous
345 Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Support Group
346 Gender Identity Center
347 PFLAG: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
348 Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center
349 Private Therapists
350 Religious Counseling
351 University of Colorado Colorado Springs (GALA)

360 A newcomer's guide to the gay & lesbian world
(lists topics 361-364)

361 Who to call

362 Coming out to your family
363 Coming out to friends
364 Safe sex guidelines

370 Directory of information about sexually-transmitted diseases
(list topics 371-379)

371 An overview of sexually-transmitted diseases
372 General risk-reduction guidelines
373 AIDS
374 Chlamydia, Vaginitis & Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
375 Gonorrhea
376 Hepatitis B
377 Herpes and Genital Warts
378 Syphilis
379 Where to go for medical help and counseling

380 Directory of legal information for gays and lesbians
(lists topics 381-386)

381 AIDS discrimination
382 Discrimination and Violence against gays and lesbians
383 Local ordinances - Aspen
384 Local ordinances - Boulder
385 Local ordinances - Denver
386 Current civil rights information for Colorado Springs and Pueblo

400 Around the Town Directory"
(lists directories 410, 430, 440, 600, 900)

410 Directory of bars and clubs for men
(list topics 411-?)

430 Directory of bars and clubs for women
(list topics 431-?)

440 Directory of things to do in and around Colorado Springs
(list topics 441-447)

441 Gay and lesbian theaters
442 Gay and lesbian bookstores
443 Gay and lesbian video rentals
444 Gay and lesbian newspapers
445 Gay and lesbian accommodations
446 Gay and lesbian travel
447 Other gay and lesbian friendly businesses

500 Denver and Statewide Directory
(lists directories 510, 540, 570, 600, 900)

510 Directory of bars and clubs for men
(list topics 511-?)

540 Directory of bars and clubs for women
(list topics 541-?)

570 Directory of things to do in Denver and Statewide
(list topics 571-577)

571 Gay and lesbian theaters
572 Gay and lesbian bookstores
573 Gay and lesbian video rentals
574 Gay and lesbian newspapers
575 Gay and lesbian accommodations
576 Gay and lesbian travel
577 Other gay and lesbian friendly businesses

600 PPGLCC Events Calendar
(explains Calendar system, lists topics 601-603)

601 Calendar for this week
602 Calendar for next week
603 Calendar for the week after next

650 Additional information about the PPGLCC Helpline
(list topics 651-654)

651 Background on the PPGLCC Helpline: how it works, how it's funded
652 Special feature of the PPGLCC Helpline for frequent callers
653 How to get involved in the PPGLCC Helpline
654 How to have your organization's events listed on the Helpline

699 The time

700 Directory of news on key issues affecting the gay community
(list topics 701-708)

701 Legal news
701 Political news
703 Media news
704 AIDS-related news
705 Military news
706 Religious news
707 International news
708 General interest news

720 Gay and lesbian books
(lists topics 721-726)

721 Guidebooks
722 Men growing up and coming out
723 Women growing up and coming out
724 Gay life and love
725 Lesbian life and love
726 Living with AIDS

727-899 reserved for future services
900 Hang up
901 Express hang up (skips closing messages)
950 System maintenance and remote calendar updating functions

Money Angles

Andrew Tobias

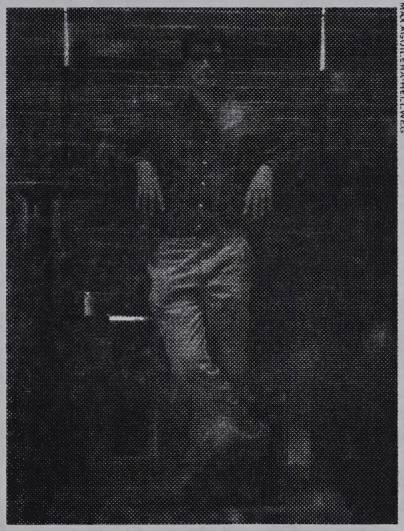
Three-Dollar Bills

How times change. First we freed the slaves (good move), then we gave women the vote (jury still out), and now we seem to be saying gays are O.K. too. A recent FORTUNE cover story was titled "Gay in Corporate America—What It's Like, and How Business Attitudes Are Changing." The Episcopal Church has seriously considered sanctioning gay marriages. And as if that weren't enough, Harvard Business School (*Harvard Business School!*) now has a gay hot line.

Of course, whenever such sea changes are occurring, there's lots of controversy, sometimes even civil war. But with time, we adapt. Racial prejudice lives on, but few Americans today believe in slavery—or even segregated drinking fountains. Not every man is comfortable working for a woman, but relatively few believe women should be denied the right to vote—or even the right to run a small country (Britain comes to mind) or join the Army.

Hatred of any type is rarely justified or productive, not even the good old-fashioned hatred of one religious group by another. But when an idea is young (gay lib began in 1969, after police harassment sparked a riot in New York's Greenwich Village), there's usually tremendous resistance. It's just the way the world works. Even automated-teller machines took a while to catch on. Can you imagine?

So it's noteworthy that a mere generation after someone got the notion it isn't right to persecute people for their sexual orientation—a thing no more easily changed, it turns out, than Martin Luther King's skin or Gloria Steinem's gender—there is quiet recognition among a large segment of the country, and even the conservative business world, that, hey, most people are straight, some people are gay, and it's really not that big a deal. Sometimes it's even pretty funny.



MAX AGUILERA-HELLWEG

Rotenberg: in the forefront again

One New York printing firm, run by gay women, advertises, "We're Here, We're Queer, and We Do Quality Printing." Obviously, most people would just as soon know as little as possible about the sex lives of their printers. But as marketers have increasingly discovered, there's a large, affluent gay market, and gays like to patronize businesses where they feel welcome.

When I was at Harvard Business School, there wasn't a single openly gay student. Oh, at Harvard *College* maybe, but Harvard Business School? Please.

Yet there was FORTUNE this past December reporting on gay-employee organizations "at companies ranging from AT&T to Xerox" and a gay corporate network in Chicago with 600 members (nicknamed "Fruits in Suits"); the openly gay president of a well-known ad agency, a gay Wall Street lunch club and a group called the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals; and on an openly gay second-year Harvard B-school student named Jonathan Rotenberg.

Rotenberg, 28, is a member of the Harvard Business School Gay and Lesbian Students Association. It was founded in 1979, around the same time, coincidentally, that Rotenberg, then 13, founded the Boston Computer Society. (He remains its chairman.) The Boston Computer Society—the most influential computer-users group in the world, with 32,000 dues-paying members in 45 countries—is larger than the Harvard Business School Gay and Lesbian Students Association, but since arriving at Harvard, Rotenberg has devoted more of his time to G.L.S.A.

He created the G.L.S.A. Audiotext Hotline, "an automated service designed for people of all sexual orientations: straight, gay, bisexual and unsure." You dial up the G.L.S.A. computer (617-495-6100) and, in total anonymity, choose from a menu of more than 100 brief prerecorded messages—everything from "What causes people to be gay?" and "Can a gay person be changed into a heterosexual?" to your choice of 12 "Common myths about homosexuality," a directory of counseling services and the policies of 11 different religious denominations toward gay issues. (Now don't all call at once.)

Last semester Rotenberg and his cohort distributed a pamphlet to everyone on campus. "There's something a bunch of your classmates would like to tell you," read the front cover, continuing inside, "It's not easy being gay at Harvard Business School." The pamphlet acknowledged that "sexual orientation is a topic that makes many people uncomfortable"—an understatement on a par with original estimates for bailing out the savings and loan industry. Yet Rotenberg says his classmates and colleagues have been almost uniformly positive, both before and after his appearance in FORTUNE. His hot line (not mentioned in FORTUNE) has logged more than 1,100 calls.

To those who are astonished that Liberace was gay (or Alexander the Great or Leonardo da Vinci or numerous current power people whose right to privacy should be respected), as to those who wonder whether Ed Bradley of CBS's *60 Minutes* is black (this was actually a question some years ago in *Parade*: "My husband and I can't agree: Is Ed Bradley of CBS's *60 Minutes* black?" Yes, dear, he is), these must be strange and frightening times.

But it looks as if yet another scaffold of prejudice is in the early stages of dismantlement, and that's likely in the long run to make America stronger and more competitive. If the best man for a particular job happens to be a woman—or gay, or Catholic, or black—why waste that talent? It's inefficient. A nation whose citizens respect and get along with one another has an advantage. Good for Harvard Business School. ■